

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 02936 210446Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 /049 W
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R 200815Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7480
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2936

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS EAID PBOR AS LA TH
SUBJ: LACK OF ROAD SECURITY CONTINUES TO JEOPARDIZE AUSTRALIAN
AID PROJECT IN THAKHEK

REF: VIENTIANE 2854

1. AUSTRALIAN THIRD SECRETARY W. BARKER TOLD EMBOFF
DECEMBER 17 THAT LAO OFFICIALS INFORMED HIM THAT THEY
WERE STILL CONSIDERING BARKER'S PROPOSED TRIP TO
THAKHEK VIA ROUTE 13 WHICH IS TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY
OF FOUR MILLION DOLLAR WATER SYSTEM PROJECT FOR THAKHEK
(AS REPORTED REFTEL).

2. BARKER SAID THAT THE DIRECTOR OF WATER SUPPLY IN
VIENTIANE TOLD HIM THAT TWO BRIDGES ALONG ROUTE 13 HAD
BEEN DESTROYED BY "REACTIONARIES" ON DECEMBER 2.

3. THE AUSTRALIANS HAVE PROPOSED SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE
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LAO THAT SHOULD OVERLAND TRAVEL TO THAKHEK FROM
VIENTIANE BE IMPOSSIBLE, BARKER MIGHT TRAVEL TO THAKHEK
BY AIR JANUARY 3, THEN TRAVEL TO SAVANNAKHET BY ROAD,
RETURNING TO VIENTIANE FROM SAVANNAKHET BY AIR
JANUARY 7.

4. BARKER TOLD EMBOFF THAT OVERLAND TRAVEL ALONG
ROUTE 13 FROM THAKHEK TO SAVANNAKHET WOULD ENABLE HIM
TO DETERMINE IF THERE WAS SUFFICIENT SECURITY ALONG
THAT PORTION OF THE ROUTE TO MAKE SHIPMENT OF PROJECT
EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL FEASIBLE, IN CASE
SHIPMENT FROM VIENTIANE TO THAKHEK PROVED UNFEASIBLE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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